

MEDICAL APPLIANCE TECHNICIANS construct, fit, maintain, or repair medical supportive devices, such as braces, artificial limbs, joints, arch supports, and other surgical and medical appliances.

Medical Appliance Technicians also perform the following duties:

- ▲ Carve, cut, grind, and weld wood, plastic, or metal to make and repair medical devices, using hand and power tools.
- ▲ Lay out and mark dimensions of parts, using templates and precision measuring instruments.
- ▲ Read specifications to determine type of product or device to be fabricated and select required materials and tools.
- ▲ Fit appliance onto patient and adjust appliance as necessary.
- ▲ Instruct patient in use of prosthetic or orthotic device.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an orthotics/prosthetics instructional program that prepares individuals to make and fit orthoses and prostheses. Training is under the supervision of a physician and in consultation with therapists.
- ▲ Instruction in design, crafting and production techniques, properties of materials, anatomy and physiology, and patient counseling.
- ▲ Strong reading skills. Ability to read and understand technical specifications.
- ▲ Good mathematical ability.
- ▲ Good vision and fine motor skills.
- ▲ Mechanical aptitude.
- ▲ Detail oriented.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Medical Appliance Technicians

Wages

- ▲ Medical Appliance Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$15.69
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$36,617

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

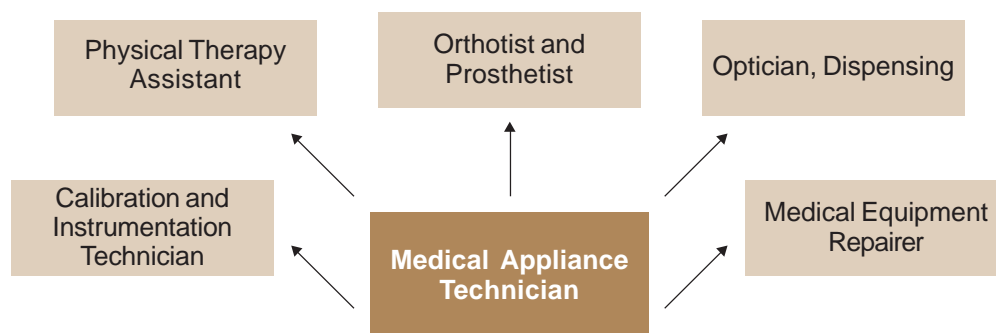
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Appliance Technicians in 2005: 1,160

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey (May 2005), EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association
(571) 431-0876
www.aopanet.org
- ▲ American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics
(703) 836-7114
www.abcop.org

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.